

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An apparatus for holding an annuloplasty ring, comprising:  
5 a holder body configured to the annuloplasty ring;  
a handle coupling configured to couple the holder body to a handle; and  
a release mechanism coupled to the handle coupling to release the handle from  
10 the handle coupling.
2. The apparatus of claim 1 including a spring configured to bias the handle coupling into a lock position.  
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3. The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the button is configured to transmit a force on the handle coupling against the spring toward an unlock position.  
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4. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the handle coupling includes an opening formed therein to receive a tip of the handle.  
25 5. The apparatus of claim 4 wherein the tip is locked within the opening.

6. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the handle coupling is configured to couple to a knob at a tip of the handle.

5 7. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the holder  
body includes an opening to receive the handle.

8. The apparatus of claim 7 wherein the opening is non-circular.

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9. The apparatus of claim 7 wherein the opening is tapered.

10. The apparatus of claim 7 wherein a surface  
15 around the opening is raised to provide a gripping  
surface.

11. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the handle coupling is configured to slide within the holder body in a direction generally parallel with a plane of the holder body.

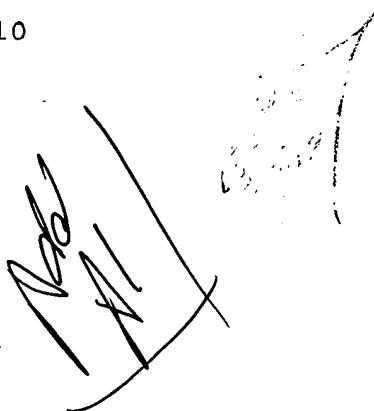
12. The apparatus of claim 1 including a handle.

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13. The apparatus of claim 12 wherein a tip of the handle includes a knob configured to engage the handle coupling.

14. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the release mechanism comprises a button.
15. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the handle coupling comprises a clip.  
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16. The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the clip is slidable within the holder body and provides a locking and release mechanism.

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